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1. A device for being integrated with a computer operating system, said device comprising:

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at least one hardware component, and

at least one description subsystem associated with said at least one hardware component;

said at least one description subsystem being adapted to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system.

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2. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one description subsystem comprises interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system.

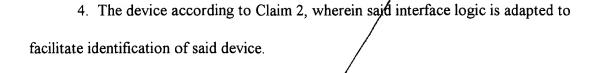
Sub A3

3. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

non-volatile memory

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said interface logic being adapted to control said non-volatile memory.



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5. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a device driver;

said interface logic being adapted to facilitate the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.

6. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to assist a computer operating system in obtaining a copy of a device driver for installation in said device.

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7. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to provide a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

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8. The device according to Claim 7, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

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- 9. The device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of device driver information stored on said device.
 - 10. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

11. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to prompt usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

12. The device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

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said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

Sub B

- 13. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a printer.
- 14. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a modem.
- 15. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a graphics card.
 - 16. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a sound card.
- 17. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a IDE disk controller.
 - 18. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a SCSI disk controller.
 - 19. The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a network controller.

Sub A5

20. A method of integrating a device with a computer operating system, said method comprising facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via at least one component associated with said device.

Sub B

- 21. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises facilitating identification of said device.
 - 22. The method according to Claim/20, further comprising:

providing a device driver associated with said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising facilitating the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.

23. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises assisting a computer operating system in obtaining a copy of a device driver for installation in said device.

24. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises providing a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

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25. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

- 26. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises facilitating the updating of device driver information stored on said device.
 - 27. The method according to Claim 20 further comprising:

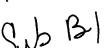
storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

28. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising prompting usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.



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29. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

30. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

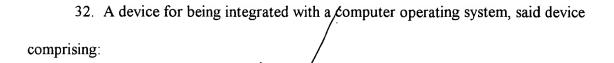
storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and querying a user to choose between versions.

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31. A program storage/device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for facilitating the integration of a device with a computer operating system via at least one component associated with the device.



a hardware component; and

a device driver stored on said hardware component.

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